recommendations made by the Eleventh Finance Commission in its Interim Report was laid on the table of the House on 16th March, 2000. Final report is due by 30th June, 2000.

Waiving of Loans of Weavers in Meghalaya

2657. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of weavers of powerloom, handicrafts, handloom and the poor SCs/STs whose loans have been waived off in Meghalaya during the last three years till date, district-wise;

(b) if not, whether Government propose to waive off the loans of such people who are living below poverty line in the State ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when the decision to waive off the loans of the poor people is likely to be taken by Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) No loans in respect of any weavers of powerloom, handicrafts, handloom and the poor SCs/STs in the State of Meghalaya have been waived off in the last three years and at present there is no proposal to waive off loans of the above categories.

Evasion of Taxes

2658. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the news-item titled "Traders go to other states to avoid Taxes" which appeared in the 'Times of India' dated the 10th February, 2000;

(b) whether it is a fact that even the implementation of uniform sales tax has led to avoidance to tax in certain commodities with a result that number of Delhi Traders are shifting to other States where the tax rate is lower; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to overcome the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No instance of traders shifting to other States with a view to avoiding sales tax on account of implementation of uniform rates of sales tax has been reported.

(c) Question does not arise.